

“The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans” (National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997).

Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR is an extremely important component for the conservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and plant resources within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR was established on June 14, 1940, by Executive Order 8444 under the authority of 16 U.S.C. Sec. 715 (Migratory Bird Conservation Act). The Refuge’s stated purpose was “... for use as a Refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife...” 16 U.S.C. Sec. 715 (Migratory Bird Conservation Act). In conjunction with the primary establishing purposes, the Refuge will provide an area for the “... conservation, management, and restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans” 16 U.S.C., 668(a)(2) (National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act) as well as “...for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources...” 16 U.S.C., 742(b)(1) (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956). The passage of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973 (as amended) required the Refuge to support recovery actions for federally listed endangered and threatened species.

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations that govern the public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. The public is encouraged to use Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge for wildlife observation, photography, hunting, fishing, interpretation, and education. When permitted, hunting, fishing, and other public uses will be in accordance with applicable State laws unless otherwise listed.

General Regulations
Public Entry

The Refuge is opened every day from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset, except for authorized nighttime hunting of raccoons and opossums. Certain areas (as shown on the reverse map) are closed to all public entry. Such areas are marked with “Closed All Entry Prohibited”. See General Use Table on opposite side for permitted activities on the Refuge. All applicable State regulations apply unless otherwise stated.

All Refuge waters are open from March 1 through October 31, except for those specifically posted as “Closed To All Entry”. Recreationalist must travel on Refuge waters at idle speed only and must not produce a wake. Watercrafts are not permitted in the spillways below the lakes.

Motor vehicles are allowed only on designated routes shown on the map on the reverse side unless the road is closed by sign or gate. Vehicles must be parked adjacent to these roadways, and may not block gates. No vehicles allowed to travel off-road. Unless otherwise posted, refuge speed limits are 25 MPH.

The removal of any object (natural, historic, or archaeological feature, etc.) is prohibited. Collection or release of plants, animals, insects, etc. is prohibited unless granted a special use permit. Marking of trees with flagging, reflective tacks, or other similar marking devices is prohibited.

Personal property must be removed from the refuge each day except for portable stands which may be placed on the Refuge from September 1 through January 15, except in the designated wilderness area where all personal property must be removed daily.

The use of artificial light, including headlights, to spot or locate any animal, except authorized nighttime hunting of raccoons and opossums, is strictly prohibited. Calling of wildlife prior to the opening of any hunting season or for purposes of observation and photography is prohibited.

Special Hunting Regulations

Public hunting is permitted on about 42,000 acres. The harvest of animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations at a level compatible with the habitat, provide wholesome recreational opportunities and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource. No person may capture, kill, or destroy any wildlife and remove the head, claws, teeth, hide, antlers, or any or all of such parts from the body with the intent to abandon the body.

The area around Douglas Bluff Road is an environmental education outdoor classroom and is closed to all hunting or hunting access. The area of the Refuge open to waterfowl hunting will be closed to all other types of hunting, each Saturday and Wednesday morning of the State waterfowl season. Please see the Refuge website for location of waterfowl hunt. Waterfowl hunts can be closed at management discretion if flooding causes a safety concern.

Hunters are required to sign and carry the refuge brochure signifying they have read and understood the rules of the hunt. This brochure must be in the hunter’s possession at all times while hunting on the refuge.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on the refuge must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations. All persons hunting small game and turkey are required to use nontoxic shot within all greentree reservoirs and nontoxic shot is recommended throughout the refuge specifically in wetland areas. Small game rifle hunters are restricted to .22 caliber rimfire or smaller rifles. We prohibit magnum ammunition while hunting small game. Deer hunters may use those weapons defined by state regulation.

During any State Deer Gun hunting season, any person hunting upland game must wear at least 500 square inches (3,200 cm²) of unbroken fluorescent-orange material visible above the waistline as an outer garment. Hunters should be aware other public uses will co-inside with hunting seasons and visitors may not be wearing hunter orange. It is the hunter’s responsibility to be aware of what is in the line of fire.

Hunters may take incidental species (coyote, beaver, nutria, and feral hog) during any hunt with those weapons legal during those hunts.

Baiting on the Refuge is prohibited by Federal Law.

Handicapped Hunts

If and when available, we will make special hunting locations available for specified hunt dates and areas for mobility-impaired persons by General Special Use Application and Permit (FWS Form 3-1383-G). Mobility-impaired is defined as a permanent physical condition that severely impairs your mobility, which requires the assistance from a wheelchair, braces, crutches, or other similar aids of mobility. Applications must also provide a letter from a physician to verify the applicant’s physical condition that severely impairs their mobility without proper assistance. The level of impairment must be stated in a letter to verify the extent of the applicant’s condition. The physician’s letter must be on an official letterhead with the physician’s original signature. Contact the refuge office for information.

Youth Hunts

All youth hunters under age 16 must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older, and must remain within sight and normal voice contact with the adult while hunting. Adults must comply with State Regulations on supervision and one adult may supervise no more than two youth hunters. Only the youth may handle, carry, transport, or discharge firearms. Youth hunters, hunting outside of designated youth season, are required to obtain any additional permits required.

Small Game

Small game hunting is allowed on the refuge. A signed brochure (this brochure) is required for all hunters. State bag limits apply. Harvest restrictions are the same as State Zone 2.

Deer

A non-refundable Refuge Permit is required for deer hunting. These permits may be purchased by credit card or bank account withdrawal through the refuge website, <http://www.fws.gov/noxubee/>, or by money order following mail-in instruction available at the refuge visitor center. When the new system is fully functional, permits may also be purchased by credit card only at the refuge visitor center. Only one permit is required per hunter. Permits are nontransferable and all signature blocks must be signed and in possession while hunting. All deer harvested are required to be checked at a refuge self-clearing check station on the same day harvested and prior to leaving the refuge. The refuge deer limit is the same as the State limit and deer harvested on the refuge count toward the State limit. Harvest restrictions are the same as the State Hill Zone except antlerless deer can be harvested in open gun seasons. There are no tagging requirements.

Hanging and/or cleaning deer is prohibited within the refuge’s picnic, boat ramp, parking lots, and other public use areas. Deer can be field dressed where harvested. Refuge dumpsters cannot be used to dispose of carcasses.

Man-driving is prohibited.

Hunters are allowed to hunt from tree stands in accordance with 50 CFR §32.2(i). Hunters must use a full body safety harness at all times while hunting from a tree. Portable stands may only be placed on the refuge from September 1 – January 15, except for the designated wilderness area where tree stands must be removed daily. Additionally, within the designated wilderness area, mechanical equipment is prohibited including bicycles. It is unlawful to drive a nail, spike, or other metal object into a tree or to

hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven. Cutting or trimming branches or brush for shooting lanes is prohibited. Each stand is required to be tagged with the owner’s name, address, and permit number.

Waterfowl
A non-refundable permit is required for waterfowl hunting. These permits may be purchased by credit card or bank account withdrawal through the refuge website, <http://www.fws.gov/noxubee/>, or by money order following mail-in instruction available at the refuge visitor center. When the new system is fully functional, permits may also be purchased by credit card only at the refuge visitor center and check station the morning of each hunt. Only one permit is required per hunter per season. Permits are nontransferable. In addition to requested quota hunt dates, permit holders may also participate as a standby hunter on any other hunt date without need to purchase additional permits. Hunters must purchase a permit and indicate hunt date preferences by October 25 to be preselected for waterfowl hunt dates.

Successful applicants will be notified by email or mail. Selected applicants will be allowed to hunt with up to two companions until 12 PM (noon) on the specified hunt day.

A stand-by drawing will be held the morning of each hunt for all vacancies. Prior to the drawing, and similar to that stated above, all applicants for the stand-by slots will need to pay the non-refundable permit fee the morning of the drawing by credit card only. All stand-by hunters must be present and possess a permit before 5:45 a.m. the morning of the hunt in order to participate in the drawing. Stand-by hunters who pay prior to arrival must provide receipt of payment prior to being including in the drawing.

Available dates are each Wednesday and Saturday of the State waterfowl seasons, excluding Federal Holidays. The check station will be opened at 5:00 a.m. the morning of each hunt. As a reminder, hunters should ensure they have non-toxic shot, a Federal waterfowl stamp, and all necessary Mississippi state licenses.

Turkey
Turkey hunting is allowed on the refuge. A signed brochure (this brochure) is required for all hunters. State bag limits apply. All turkeys must be checked in at the refuge check stations the day of harvest and before the hunter leaves the refuge.

Special Fishing Regulations
Sport fishing is permitted on all waters of the Refuge from March 1 through October 31, except for the Noxubee River and the borrow pits along Highway 25, which are open year-round, or those specifically posted as “Closed To All Entry”. Sport fishing will be conducted in accordance with all applicable State regulations and subject to the following special conditions. No commercial fishing activities are allowed on refuge lands.

Sport fishing (rod/reel and cane poles) are allowed in all water bodies when open.

Limb lines and hand grappling are allowed in Noxubee River only.

Set hooks are allowed in Noxubee River and Oktoc Creek. Anglers must tag pole and set hooks with their name and address when using them. Anglers must remove these devices when not in use.

Trot lines are allowed in Bluff Lake, Loakfoma Lake, and Noxubee River. They must have floats and cotton string attached to each end with owner’s name and address on both of them; one line is allowed per person with no more than two lines allowed per boat; and lines must be tended every 24 hours and removed when not in use.

Jug fishing is allowed in Bluff Lake and Loakfoma Lake only. When jug fishing, jugs must have name and address attached to each jug and must be tended every 24 hours.

Bowfishing is allowed in all water bodies when open during daylight hours.

Fishing tournaments are prohibited on all refuge waters.

We prohibit the taking of frogs and turtles (see §27.21).

Cleaning of fish is prohibited within the refuge’s picnic, boat ramp, parking lots, and other public use areas.

Please keep the Refuge clean. No Littering.

Sam D. Hamilton
Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge
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<http://www.fws.gov/noxubee>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

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Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee *National Wildlife Refuge Hunting, Fishing, and Public Use Regulations 2013-2014*

**Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge
2013-2014 Hunting, Fishing, and Public Use Regulations**

Signature on this brochure is required to validate it as a no cost permit to participate in all hunting and fishing opportunities. By signing, permittees agree that they have read and understand all regulations contained within. Hunters and fishermen are required to keep their signed no cost permit in possession at all times while hunting and fishing.

Signature